Training visit to China

3888. DR. P.C. ALEXANDER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a group of 150 IAS officers has written to Government stating that the two-weeks training visit to China included as part of a two-months mid-career training course designed for them would be unnecessary and wasteful;

(b) whether Government would reconsider the need and advisability of deputing very senior IAS officers with 26-28 years of service for training—with a condition that such training is indispensable for being considered for empanelment as Additional Secretary or Secretary;

(c) whether the mid-career training courses for IAS officers are to be conducted jointly with certain US institutions; and

(d) if so, whether this arrangement is the best suited for the Civil Service of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Mid-career Training of IAS officers has been introduced after detailed consideration based on the recommendations of various high level committees. The primary objective of the Mid-career training of IAS officers is to help develop "next level competency" before the officers get promoted to higher positions. The Government does not have any proposal to reconsider the mandatory nature of the training programme for officers with 26-28 years of service.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) An Expert Committee constituted for the purpose has selected the institutions for the design, development and delivery of the Mid-career Training of IAS officers from amongst leading academic and training institutions in India and abroad based on the competence of the institutions to deliver executive programmes for such senior level officers.